

File

THE PRESIDENT'S INTELLIGENCE CHECKLIST

9 AUGUST 1961
~~TOP SECRET~~

1. Congo developments

The moderates have made some headway in their efforts to nail down their parliamentary gains, but the situation remains fragile amidst continued factional maneuvering. Despite press reports of his accession to the central government, Gizenga's position remains equivocal. Although his fear of political isolation may force a tactical retreat, the bulk of our evidence indicates that he still hopes either to capture or undermine the central government. In Brussels, meanwhile, Spaak, has once again expressed anxiety over the possible inflammatory consequences of any attempt to reintegrate Katanga by force.

2. Tunisia

The Tunisians, who seem to be in a genuine policy quandary, are being urged by some of the Afro-Asians at the UN to reheat the situation at Bizerte in order to put some steam into the drive for General Assembly debate. There is also a move afoot to include them in the Belgrade conference of neutrals, probably as a means of encouraging their drift toward non-alignment.

At the UN, meanwhile, the latest head-count gave the Afro-Asians 49 votes toward their resolution.

3. Dominican Republic

Our Consul reports that after the bad fright they suffered in last week's crackdown the opposition is beginning to regain its composure. On the government side, [REDACTED] 50X1

[REDACTED] both Ramfis and Balaguer are having trouble with old-guard members of the Trujillo family and the armed forces and appealed for token US support. [REDACTED] 50X1
[REDACTED] 50X1

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- B. The US Task Force in South Vietnam estimates current Viet Cong strength as follows: 7800-8150 full-time guerillas; 5500-6200 part-time guerillas. The South Vietnamese government has organized a maritime patrol in an attempt to check the supply of weapons, half of which are believed to arrive by sea.

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- D. Saudi Arabia is showing interest in the purchase of arms from the Bloc. The Soviet and Czech ministers to Turkey have recently arranged visits with King Saud.

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- E. Evidence of some curtailment of foreign travel by the Chinese Communists could be another symptom of the embarrassment caused by economic ills.

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